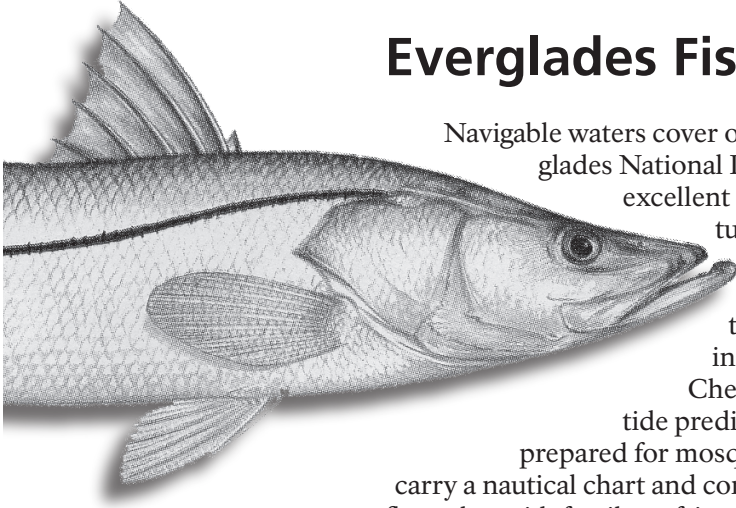




Everglades Fishing Regulations



Navigable waters cover one third of Everglades National Park, creating excellent fishing opportunities. Please remember to exercise caution while fishing in the Everglades. Check weather and tide predictions and be prepared for mosquitoes. Always carry a nautical chart and compass and leave a float plan with family or friends.

Please remember that collecting plants and animals in the Everglades is prohibited. This includes orchids, air plants, sea horses, starfish, conch, tropical fish, lobster, coral, sponges, and driftwood. One quart of non-occupied sea-shells may be collected per person per day.

The following regulations are intended to supplement the Florida Saltwater Recreational Fishing Regulations. Visitors must be aware of Florida state laws, rules, and regulations. For more information on licensing and state fishing regulations, visit www.marinefisheries.org.

Fishing Regulations

Freshwater or Saltwater?

All waters from and including, Nine Mile Pond northward, along the Main Park Road are considered fresh water.

Prohibited Fishing Gear

Except for dip nets, cast nets, and landing nets, all other seines and nets are prohibited. The use and possession of spear guns, spear poles, and firearms are prohibited.

Filleting Fish

Anglers may have four (4) fillets per person for immediate consumption at designated campsites or on board vessels equipped with cooking facilities. All other fish must remain whole while in the park.

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing is prohibited in Everglades National Park.

Freshwater Fishing

License

A Florida freshwater fishing license is required for park visitors 16 years or older to fish in freshwater or to possess freshwater species.

Bait

Live or dead fish (including minnows and shiners) or amphibians, and non-preserved fish eggs or roe are prohibited. Digging for bait inside the park is not permitted.

Closed To Fishing

No fishing is allowed in the Ernest F. Coe (Main) Visitor Center lakes, Royal Palm Visitor Center area and trails, Chekika Lake, along the first three miles of the Main Park Road, including Taylor Slough, or along the Shark Valley Tram Road.

Saltwater Fishing

Saltwater

Saltwater fishing in Everglades National Park is almost entirely in Monroe County.

License

A Florida saltwater fishing license is required for park visitors 16 years or older to fish in saltwater or possess saltwater species. Florida residents fishing from shore do not need a license.

Bait

Bait, except for mullet and shrimp, is not included in bag limits. Saltwater bait includes shrimp, minnows, pilchards, pinfish, mullet, mojarras (shad), or ballyhoo. Bait may be taken with hook and line, dip net (not wider than three feet), and cast net (not larger than ten feet from horn to lead line).

Closed To Fishing

No fishing is allowed in Eco, Mrazek, or Coot Bay Ponds at any time. No fishing is allowed from the boardwalk at West Lake, or at the Flamingo Marina during daylight hours.

Manatee Etiquette

Areas frequented by manatees have been posted. Keep an eye out for manatees. Slow to an idle if observed, but do not approach.

Shrimp

Shrimp may be taken by dip net (not wider than three feet) or cast net (not larger than ten feet from horn to lead line), for personal use only.

Aquatic Life

With the exception of finfish, shrimp, crabs, and bait, the possession or disturbance of any fresh or saltwater aquatic life is prohibited.

Flats Etiquette

Propeller damage to seagrass beds is harmful to the marine environment. Be extremely careful when navigating in shallow waters and use a pushpole whenever possible. Use the channels in Florida Bay to navigate around flats.

Recreational Crabbing

Stone crabs, during open state season, and blue crabs may be taken by recreational fishermen using attended gear (for example: star trap, baited line, landing net, etc.). Crabbers are limited to five (5) traps. Crabbing with unattended gear is prohibited.

Warning!

High levels of mercury have been found in Everglades bass and in some fish species in northern Florida Bay. Do not eat bass caught north of the main park road more than once a week. Children and pregnant women should not eat any bass. The following saltwater species caught in northern Florida Bay should not be consumed more than once a week by adults, or once a month by children and women of child-bearing age: Spotted Seatrout, Gafftopsail Catfish, Bluefish, Crevalle Jack, or Ladyfish.

Everglades National Park Catch Limits

(F) Fork Length: Fish is measured from the tip of the nose to the rear center of the fork of the tail.

(T) Total Length: Fish is measured from the tip of the nose to the back of the tail fin.

Species	Size Limit	Closed Season	Daily Bag Limit	Remarks
Black Drum	14" - 24" (T)		5/person/day	Only one fish over 24" per person.
Blue Crab	None		10 gal whole/person/day	Egg bearing crabs may not be taken.
Bluefish	12" (F)		10/person/day	
Bonefish	18" (T)		1/person/day	
Cobia	33" (F)		1/person/day, or 6/vessel, whichever is less	
Flounder	12" (T)		10/person/day	
Grouper (Black, Gag)	24" (T) Monroe 22" (T) Gulf (excluding Monroe)		2/person/day (Monroe) 5/person/day (Gulf, other than Monroe County)	} Included in the daily Grouper aggregate limit of 5 per person per day.
Grouper (Red)	20" (T)		1/person/day (Gulf)	
Grouper (Scamp)	20" (T) Monroe 16" (T) Gulf (excluding Monroe)		5/person/day	
Grouper (Warsaw, Speckled Hind)	None		1/vessel/day	
Grouper (Yellowfin, Yellowmouth)	20" (T)		5/person/day	
Hogfish	12" (F)		5/person/day	
Largemouth Bass*	Less than 14" (T)		5/person/day	No more than one fish over 14" per person.
Mackerel (Spanish)*	12" (F)		10/person/day	
Mullet* (Black, Striped)	Less than 8" (T) (bait fish)		None	More than 8" in length: limit is 10 per person.
Permit/Pompano	11" - 20" (F)		6/person/day	No more than one fish over 20" per person. Aggregate bag limit of 10 per person per day.
Redfish	18" - 27" (T)		1/person/day	Cannot buy or sell native Redfish.
Sea Trout	15" - 20" (T)	Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	4/person/day	No more than one trout over 20" per person.
Shark	None		1/person/day or 2/vessel/day, whichever is less	See list below for protected species.
Sheepshead*	12" (F)		10/person/day	
Shrimp	None		5 gallons, head on, per person or vessel per day, whichever is less	Must be landed in whole condition.
Snapper (Gray, Mangrove)	10" (T)		5/person/day	} No more than 10 Snapper of all species combined can be possessed at any one time.
Snapper (Schoolmaster)	10 " (T)		10/person/day	
Snapper (Lane)	8" (T)		10/person/day	
Snapper (Mutton)	16" (T)		10/person/day	
Snapper (Red)^	16" (T) Gulf	Nov. 1 - Apr. 14	4/person/day (Gulf)	
Snapper (Yellowtail)	12" (T)		10/person/day	
Snapper (Vermilion)	11" (T)		10/person/day	Not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit.
Snook*	27" - 34" (T) Gulf, Monroe, ENP	Dec. 15 - Jan. 31, May 1 - Aug. 31	1/person/day	Fishing guides cannot possess. Cannot buy or sell. Snook stamp required.
Stone Crab Claws	2 3/4 " forearm	May 16 - Oct. 14	1 gal/person/day or 2 gal/vessel, whichever is less	Legal claws may be taken but crab must be returned to water.
Tarpon	None		2/person/day (2 fish possession limit)	Cannot buy or sell. Requires \$50 Tarpon tag to possess or harvest.
Tripletail	15" (T)		2/person/day	

Notes

- * Indicates species with more restrictive regulations than those listed in Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations. For additional information on licensing and fishing regulations visit www.marinefisheries.org or www.myfwc.com, or call 888-FISHFLO (347-4356).

^ Other size and bag limits may apply outside the Everglades National Park and Gulf waters. See the Florida Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations.

• Licensed anglers are limited to possession of 20 fish per person at any time, but may possess only 10 fish of any one species. There is no possession limit for non-native fish species.
- Harvest, landing, and sale of the following species is prohibited: Goliath Grouper (formerly known as Jewfish), Nassau Grouper, lobster, oysters, scallops, Smalltooth Sawfish, Largemouth Sawfish, Basking Shark, Whale Shark, and Spotted Eagle Ray.

• Using live or dead natural bait on a multiple hook (such as a treble hook) while fishing for Black Drum, Pompano, Redfish, Sea Trout, or Snook is prohibited. Snagging the above species is also prohibited.
- This information is correct as of July 2006. You are responsible for knowing any revisions.**